



December 6, 2012

To: The students from FH Collins who were present in the Yukon Legislative Assembly on 4 Dec, 2012.

Re: Showing Respect for a Democratic Institution, the Yukon Legislative Assembly, that Canadian Soldiers have Sacrificed to Protect and Preserve.

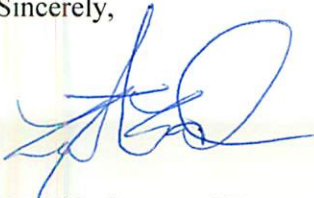
As Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly my function in the Legislature is to ensure the rules of the House, known as the Standing Orders, are adhered to by the members of the Legislature and that they are afforded the opportunity to conduct their business without interruption. The public gallery in Yukon's Legislature is open to anyone wishing to attend and listen to the elected members. Visitors are there to listen and observe not participate in any manner.

I'm a veteran and have been one for some time before I was elected as an MLA. My almost 22 (July 1975 to April 1996) years were spent in service to Canada during a time period when the military was deployed on what are best known as Peace Keeping Missions. I have seen what happens when the democratic process, rights and privileges are compromised and eroded. I also remember, perhaps because I have had the honor and very sincere privilege to talk with WWII and Korean War survivors, what the cost of respecting, enshrining, preserving, and defending the Canadian morals, values, institutions, and democratic practices has cost all of us. On Remembrance Day we as a nation and as individuals stop and take time to reflect on the service we have received from so many generations of individuals and the sacrifices they were prepared to make to ensure the continued survival of Canada and all it represents across Canada and around the world.

To disrespect the institutions, democratic processes and beliefs protected by these individuals demonstrates your lack of understanding, knowledge and appreciation of the freedoms you currently enjoy that Canadian soldiers have fought and died to protect.

I thank you for attending the Legislature and hope you do so again, without disruption. If you would like to discuss this and any other concerns individually or as a group I would be very pleased to do so at my office, your school or any place of mutual choice. Just ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DL Laxton', written over a horizontal yellow highlight.

David L. Laxton, CD
Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly